

ET

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/713,196	KOJIMA, MASATSUGU	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Connie C. Yoha	2827	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/17/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 November 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

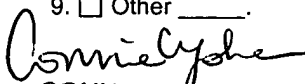
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>4/04</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
|---|--|


CONNIE C. YOHA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office acknowledges receipt of the following item from the Applicant:
Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on 4/13/04 and it was considered.
Papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) have been placed of record in the file.
2. Claims 1-17 are presented for examination.
3. Claims 1-17 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
Claims 1-17 are considered allowable since the prior art made of record and considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure does not teach or suggest the claimed limitations. The prior art does not teach the claimed invention of a memory device having in combination with other features, an erase control area set in which the number of data erase is stored as being expressed by a series of two-value data, the number of "0" data at lower bit side thereof indicating an accumulated value of the number of data erase in a block and wherein the number of data erase is read out before data erase for a selected page in said block by a check-read operation in which plural pages are simultaneously set at a selected state, and renewed and written into said selected page after data erase.
5. Prior art also does not disclose a register circuit for temporarily holding the number of data erase read in said redundant sense amplifier circuit from said redundant area before data erase; a data transfer circuit configured to transfer the number of data

erase read in said redundant sense amplifier circuit to said register circuit, and add one to the number of data erase held in said register circuit to renew and transfer it to said redundant sense amplifier circuit; and a judgment circuit for judging whether the number of data erase transferred to said register circuit reached to a permissible maximum value or not.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Aritome (6061280), Kobayashi et al (4811294) and Imamiya et al (5691941) discloses memory device having read/write/erase and verifying operation.


Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to whose telephone number is (571) 272-1799. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. from 8:00 A.M. to 5:30 PM. The examiner's supervisor, Hoai Ho, can be reached at (571) 272-1777. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-0956.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov> should you

Art Unit: 2827

have questions on access to the Private Pair system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



C.Yoha

March 2005



**CONNIE C. YOH
PRIMARY EXAMINER**